

THE SPEECHES

OF

Sir *EDWARD TURNER* K^t,

BEFORE

KING, LORDS & COMMONS

ASSEMBLED IN

PARLIAMENT,

when he was presented SPEAKER

of the Honorable

House of Commons,

On Friday the Tenth of *May*, 1661.

TOGETHER

With the LORD CHANCELLORS

Speeches in Answer thereunto.



LONDON:

Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the
KING'S most Excellent Majesty. 1661.

At the KING'S Printing-House in *Black-Fryers*.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

SPRECHES

OF
ST. EDWARD'S

KNOWLEDGE OF COMMONS

P. A. R. L. A. M. N. T.

which has been printed in the

House of Commons

On the 14th of January

1701

With the Lord Chancellor's

Speech in the House.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the

Printers Office, in St. Dunstons

Church-yard, 1701.

(31)

*The First Speech of Sir Edward Turner K^t.
before King, Lords and Commons assembled in
Parliament, when he was presented Speaker
of the Honorable House of Commons, on Fri-
day the Tenth of May, 1661.*

May it please Your most Excellent Majesty,



He Knights, Citizens,
and Burgeses of the
Commons House of
PARLIAMENT
being there assembled
by vertue of Your
Majesties most graci-
ous Writ, have been
pleased (I dare not
say to chuse, but) to name me their *Speaker*.

It is an undoubted priviledge of every Mem-
ber in that House, to be heard speak, much
more when he speaks for, or against himself.
But Sir, whether more out of favor to me, or
injury to themselves, I cannot tell, they were
not pleased to hear, at least they would not ac-
cept my just Apology and Excuse from this
Service.

Therefore from this their Judgment, if I must
call it so, I do most humbly appeal to Your So-
H 2 veraign

veraign Justice, beseeching Your Majesty for the Errors that are too visible and apparent in their Proceedings, that You will review and reverse the same.

My Inexperience in the Customs and Orders of the House, my Inability to collect their Sense, and state the Questions rising upon long and arduous Debates, do justly render me unfit; and therefore unworthy of this weighty employment.

Your Majesty well knows, when a Ship puts forth to Sea, she should be provided with Mariners of all sorts: In case a Storm doth arise, some must trim and lare the Sails, some must watch aloft the Decks, some must work at the Pump; but he had need be a very good Sea-man that is the Pilot. Sir, I hope I may be useful to this Your Sovereign Vessel in some of these inferior places, but I dare not undertake to be their Steersman.

I do most humbly therefore beseech Your Majesty, that You will not take us at our first word; our second thoughts are best: Pray therefore be pleased to command the Members of the House of Commons to return into their House, to recollect themselves, and to present Your Majesty with a better choice.

Mr. Speaker,

The Lord Chancellor's Speech in Answer to
Mr. Speaker's first Speech.

Mr. SPEAKER,

You have not discredited your self enough to perswade the King to dissent from His House of Commons in the Election they have made, if He had never seen you before: You have now spoke too well against your self, for His Majesty to suspect you are no good Speaker. But you have the honor to be well known to the King, have spoken very often before Him, and His Majesty well knows that you are not without any of those Parts, of knowing the Orders of the House, where you have sate long, or collecting, and stating, and putting the Questions aptly, which must constitute a right good Speaker.

Therefore His Majesty is so far from thinking the House hath made an ill choice, that He believes they could not have made a better; or from admitting your excuse, that He confirms their Election, and Thanks them very heartily for making it; and requires you to submit to it, and to betake your self with all alacrity to the Service.

The Speakers second Speech, after the Lord Chancellor had declared the KING'S Approbation of the Choice of the House of Commons.



*H*E that knows his Masters will, and doth it not, is worthy to be beaten with many stripes. I shall therefore humbly and chearfully, to the best of my poor skill and knowledge, apply my self to the performance of my Duty ; not doubting therein to obtain Your Majesties Gracious Pardon for all involuntary Transgressions ; for it is a Rule in Law, and in Conscience too, *Actus non facit reum, nisi mens sit rea.*

And since I have found this Favor in the sight of my Lord the King, pray let me beg Your Majesties patience for a while, to make a stand, and from this place to look about me : Sir, a weak head is soon giddy ; but the strongest brain may here be turned ; the Presence of this Glory, and the Glory of this Presence, do transport me : Whilst I contemplate the incomparable beauty of this Body Politick, and the goodly order of this High Court of Parliament, where at once I behold all the glory of this Nation, I am almost in the condition of St. Paul, when

when he was taken up into the third Heavens; all he could say upon his return, was, *He saw things unutterable.*

God, that made all things for the use of Man, and made him Governor over all his Works, thought it not fit to leave him to himself, nor to live without a Law and Government. The Forms and Species of Governments are various; *Monarchical, Aristocratical, and Democratical*; but the first is certainly the best, as being nearest to Divinity it self. *Aristocracy* is subject to degenerate and run into Faction; but *Democracy* naturally runs into Confusion: Then every man becomes a Tyrant over his Neighbor; *Homo Homini Lupus: Homo Homini Dæmon.*

This famous Island, Historians tell us, was first Inhabited by the *Britains*, then by the *Romans*, then by the *Saxons*, then by the *Danes*, then by the *Normans*; and during all these successions of Ages, and variety of Changes, though there was sometimes *Divisum Imperium*, yet every Division was happy under a *Monarchical Government*.

Since the Entrance of the *Norman Race*, Five and twenty Kings and Queens famous in their Generations, from whom Your Sacred Majesty is lineally descended, have sway'd the Royal Scepter of this Nation.

The

The Children of *Israel*, when they were in the Wilderness, though they were fed with Gods own hand, and ate the food of *Angels*, yet they surfeited, and murmured, and rebelled against *Moses*.

The same unthankful spirit dwelt in this Nation for divers years last past; the men of that Age were weary of the Government, though it was refined to the wonder and envy of all other Nations: They quarrelled with our *Moses*, because he was *the Lords Anointed*; *Nolumus hunc regnare*, was their first quarrel; but leveling Parity and Confusion followed; then Tyranny and Usurpation was the Conclusion.

We read of the Emperor *Adrian*, when he lay a dying, he complained that many Physicians had destroyed him; meaning, that their contrary Conceits and different Directions for his Recovery, had hastned his Death.

So it was with us; we were sick of *Reformation*; our *Reformers* were of all Ages, Sexes, and Degrees, of all Professions and Trades: *The very Cöbler went beyond his Last*; these new *States-men* took upon them to Regulate and Govern our Governors: this was the Sickness and Plague of the Nation; their new Laws were all written in Bloody Letters; the cruelty of their Tribunals made the *Judgment Seat* little differ from a *Slaughter-house*; the Rich-

man

man was made an Offender for a word; Poor men were sold for Slaves, as the *Turks* sell Heads, twenty for an *Asper*: Yet for all this Villany, there was at length found a *Protector*.

No amendment at length would serve these *Reformers* turns; no Concessions, though the most Gracious that could be imagined, would satisfie these Usurpers; but *Root and Branch*, all must go: Our late Sovereign Lord, of blessed memory, must be offered up a Sacrifice to their Lusts: Your Sacred Person (Great Sir) proscribed, and all the Royal Family exiled: Monarchy it self was voted burthensome; and therefore they must try a Commonwealth, and the better to digest it, the People were intoxicated with a belief, that they should all like themselves be Princes in their turns.

Amongst the *Persians*, after the death of their Governor, there was used to be *απομυζ πέντε ημερών*, a five days Lawlessness, in which time every man might do what he listed. During those five days, there was such Killing and Robbing, and destroying one another, that before they were ended, the People longed again for their old Government.

After the death of Your Majesties most Royal Father, here was the like Licentiousness; but alas, it continued more then twice five years: *Liberty* they called it, but it was *Libertas quidlibet*

libet audendi. Your Loyal Subjects were a Prey to Wolves and Tygers, and to the most cruel of all Beasts, unreasonable men: Every man did what seemed good in his own eyes, for in those days there was no King in our *Israel*.

But as the former *Spirit of Reformation* at first brought us into this misery; so the *Spirit of Giddiness* which God sent amongst our *Reformers*, at length cured us. The *Brazen Serpent* was the best cure for those that were bitten by the *Fiery Serpent*. The Divisions and Subdivisions of those that exercised dominion over us, weakned their own power, and stirred up the hearts, and strengthened the hands of Your Loyal Subjects, to restore our ancient Government, and to bring Your Sacred Majesty back to Your Royal Throne in Peace, as to the joy of all our hearts, we see it is this day.

This was the work of God alone, and it is admirable in our eyes. And as we have cause at all times to bless God that he hath thus brought Your Majesty to Your People; so we have just cause at this time to return our hearty thanks unto Your Majesty, that You have thus brought Your People to Your Self.

The Sun exhales the vapors from the Earth, and then sends them down again in showres of plenty; so we to our great joy, do finde that our obedience and affection to Your Majesty
are

are returned upon our heads in plenty, peace, and protection.

The last meeting here in Parliament was happy in healing the bleeding wounds of this Nation; they were blessed also, even for their works sake, Your Sacred Majesty did bless them, and therefore they shall be blessed to all posterity.

But Sir, we hope You have a blessing left for us too: That was Your Parliament by Adoption, but this is Yours by Birth-right; this Parliament is Free-born: I hope this honor will beget in us an Emulation to exceed the Actions of our Predecessors, and not onely to meet Your Majesty as our Sovereign, with the duty of Subjects, but with the love of Sons to a most indulgent Father.

Next to the glory of Your Majesties Royal Throne, I cannot but observe the brightness of this-----second Orb, this Firmament is richly deckt with Stars of several magnitudes, each Star appears like the Morning-star, and yet each Star differs from another in glory.

You cannot want Commanders, either by Sea or Land, to manage Your Designs, whilst all these Sons of *Mars* stand candidate to serve You in the Wars.

You cannot want Counsellors to advise you in the great Affairs of the Nation, whilst all these

these Senators, each fit to be a Consul, contend who shall most ease you in the Thorny Cares of the Government.

Amidst these Noble English Barons, and at Your Majesties Feet, are placed the Reverend Judges of the Land, the Sages of the Law, Men so learned and expert in the Customs, and Statutes of this Land, that if *Wat Tyler*, or *Jack Cade*, or the new Phanaticks of this latter Age had burned our Books, they were able to restore our Laws in Purity and Perfection.

And next to these, though in a lower Orb, appear the worthy Knights, the prudent Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons, being the Third Estate of Parliament.

When the fame of *Solomons* Wisdom had filled the Neighbor Nations, the Queen of *Sheba* could not contain her self at home, but with many Camels laded with Spices, with Gold and precious Stones in abundance, she comes to *Solomon* to commune with him of all that was in her heart. Great Sir, whilest this Your Native Country was unworthy of You, Foreign Nations were made happy in the knowledge of Your Person, Your Piety and Your Wisdom: And now the Lord our God hath brought You home, and set You in Your Throne, Your Subjects long to see You.

What

What striving and rejoycing was there at your first landing, to see our Rising Sun ?

What striving was there at Your Coronation to see the Imperial Crown set upon Your Royal Head ?

What striving hath there lately been, in all the Counties, Cities and Borroughs of this Nation, who should be sent up to hear Your Wisdom, and confer with You in Parliament ?

Royal Sir, these chosen worthy Messengers are not come empty-handed, they are laden ; they are sent up to You, heavy laden, from their several Counties, Cities and Borroughs.

If the Affections of all Englishmen can make You happy ; if the Riches of this Nation can make You great ; if the Strength of this Warlike People can make You considerable at home and abroad ; Be assured You are the greatest Monarch in the World. Give me leave I beseech You, to double my words, and say it again ; I wish my voice could reach to *Spain*, and to the *Indies* too, You are the greatest Monarch in the World.

I fear Your Royal Patience may be tired, I will therefore no more speak my own words, but in the name of the Commons of *England*, humbly present unto Your Majesty their accustomed Petitions, when first they are assembled in Parliament, and so conclude.

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1. First

1. First I do beseech Your Majesty, that for our better attendance on the important Service of the House, our selves, and our necessary servants may be free in our persons and estates, from all Arrests and Troubles.

2. That Debates and Disputes being necessary to the Disquisition of many Matters in the House, Your Majesty will be pleased to vouchsafe us Liberty and Freedom of Speech: which I doubt not, we shall use with Loyalty and Sobriety.

3. That if the great Affairs require it, Your Majesty upon our humble suit, will vouchsafe us access to Your Royal Person.

4. That the Proceedings of the House may receive a benign Interpretation, and be free at all times from Misconstructions.

The

The Lord Chancellor's last Speech in Answer
to the Speakers second Speech.

MR. SPEAKER,



He King is well pleased with your Obedience, and that you have so chearfully submitted to undergo that Province the House of Commons hath designed you to : He promises Himself, and the Kingdom, as great Fruit and benefit from your Joynt-services, as ever any of His Progenitors received from a Speaker, and a House of Commons. The King did His part, by publishing the very day He intended the Parliament should meet, a good time before the Writs were sealed, by sending out the Writs much longer then was necessary before the day of Meeting, that the Country might not be surprized in their Elections, but that they might send up such a Representative unto Him, as He might make a clear view and prospect of the Affections and Desires of His People : And He is perswaded, that the Commons of England were never more exactly represented, then they are at present in you, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses; and yet I have a very particular command from His Majesty to tell you, which in truth He meant to have said to you Himself the other day ; and which He hopes you will

will not take ill in point of Priviledge, that His Majesty takes notice, indeed He cannot chuse but take notice of one ill circumstance in many Elections, which He imputes rather to the Vice of the Times, a Vice worthy your Severity, then to any corrupt Intention, that is, Excess of Drinking, which produceth that other scandalous excess in the expence: His Majesty doth very heartily recommend it to your Wisdom, for the Honor and Dignity of Parliaments, that you will take some course to prevent this Inconvenience for the future; and if you think fit to call for any help from Him towards it, you will be sure to have it.

You have made Mr. Speaker a very lively description of the extravagancy of that Confusion which this poor Nation groaned under, when they would throw off a Government they had lived and prospered under so many Ages, indeed from the time of being a Nation, and which is as natural to them as their Food or their Rayment, to model a new one for themselves, which they knew no more how to do, then the naked Indians know how to dress themselves in the French fashion; when (as you say) all Ages, Sexes, and Degrees, all Professions and Trades would become Reformers; when the Common People of England, would represent the Commons of England, and abject men who could neither write nor read, would make Laws for the Government of the Heroick and the most Learned

Learned Nation in the World : For sure none of our Neighbors will deny it to have a full excellency and perfection, both in Arms and Letters; and it was the grossest and most ridiculous Pageant that great Imposture ever exposed to publick view, when he gave up the Nation to be disposed of by a handful of poor Mechanick persons, who finding they knew not what to do with it, would (he was sure) give it back to him again, as they shortly did, which makes his Title compleat to the Government he meant to exercise. No man undervalues the Common People of England, who are in truth the best and the honestest, I and the wisest Common People in the World, when he sayes they are not fit to model the Government they are to live under, or to make the Laws they are to obey. Solomon tells us, There is a time when one man rules over another to his own hurt; we have had abundant instances of such a time. It is the Priviledge, if you please the Prerogative (and it is a great one) of the Common People of England to be represented by the Greatest, and Learnedest, and Wealthiest, and Wisest Persons that can be chose out of the Nation; and the confounding the Commons of England, which is that noble Representative, with the Common People of England, was the first Ingredient into that accursed dose, which intoxicated the brains of Men with that imagination of a Commonwealth, a Commonwealth Mr. Speaker, a
M Govern-

Government as impossible for the spirit and temper, and genius of the English Nation to submit to, as it is to perswade them to give their Cattle and their Corn to other men, and to live themselves upon Herbs and Roots. I wish heartily, that they who have been most delighted with that imagination, knew in truth the great benefit under that Government. There is not a Commonwealth in Europe, where every man that is worth One thousand pounds, doth not pay more to the Government, then a man of a thousand pounds a year did ever to the Crown here before those Troubles. And I am perswaded that Monster-Commonwealth cost this Nation more in the few years she was begot, born, and brought up, and in her funeral (which was the best expence of all) then the Monarchy hath done these Six hundred years.

You have done well Mr. Speaker, in taking notice of the great esteem the King hath of the memory of the last Parliament; He takes all occasions Himself to do it, and it deserved it at His hands. But as the wisest Father takes joy in the hopes his Heir will be wiser then he, and the greatest Monarch in the hopes that His Successor will be greater then He: And if the Souls departed feel any joy upon what is done in this World, it is in the case of such an Heir, such a Successor; so you may be confident the Ghost of the deceased Parliament will be much delighted, much exalted to see your
 Actions

Actions excel theirs, and your Fame exceed theirs. It was a blessed Parliament, but there are other and greater Blessings reserved for you: They began many things, which you may have the happiness to finish; they had not time nor opportunity to begin many things which you may have the honor to begin and finish: They invited His Majesty home, restored Him to His Throne, and Monarchy to the Nation. It will be your glory so to establish Him in His Power and Greatness; so to annex Monarchy to the Nation, that He nor His Posterity shall be ever again forced to be abroad, that they be invited home, nor in danger to be restored: So to Rivet Monarchy to the hearts, and to the understandings of all men, that no man may ever presume to conspire against it. Let it not suffice that we have our King again, and our Laws again, and Parliaments again; but let us so provide, that neither King, nor Laws, nor Parliaments, may be so used again. Let not our Monarchy be undermined by a Fifth Monarchy, nor men suffered to have the Protection of a Government they profess to hate; root out all Ante-Monarchical Principles, at least, let not the same stratagems prevail against us: Let us remember how we were deceived, and let not the same Artifices over-reach us again: Let King, and Church, and Country, receive more and greater advantages, by the Wisdom and Industry of this Parliament: Let Trade abroad and

at

at home, be encouraged and enlarged, all Vices and Excesses be restrained and abolished, by new Laws and Provisions: Let profitable Arts and Industry finde so great encouragement, that all thriving Inventions may be brought from all parts of the World to enrich this Kingdom, and that the Inventors may grow rich in this Kingdom. And upon this Argument of encouraging Industry, I have a command from the King to recommend to you, the encouragement or preservation of a great work of Industry, in which the honor and interest of the Nation is more concerned, then in any work this Age hath brought out, it may be in any Nation; and that is, All the Drainings in England which have given us new Countries upon our own Continent, and brought an inestimable benefit to King and People by an art of Creation, making Earth, and mending Air by Wit and Industry: Let no waywardness in particular persons, or consideration of private and particular advantage, give disturbance to Works of so publick a nature, much less destroy such works, but provide out of hand for the upholding and supporting them by some good Law; in which, due care may be taken for all particular interests, when the publick is out of danger.

I have but one desire more, Mr. Speaker, to make to you from the King, which the season of the year, as well as your Inclinations to gratifie Him, will dispose you to; and that is, that you will use
such

such expedition in your Councils of most importance, that the rest may be left to a Recess in the Winter after an Adjournment, that His Majesty may have a time to bestow Himself upon His Subjects in a Progress, which He would be glad to begin before the end of July. I have leave to tell you the Progress He intends; that He desires again to see His good City of Worcester, and to thank God for His deliverance there, and to thank God even in those Cottages, and Barns, and Haylofts, in which He was sheltered, and feasted, and preserved; and in the close of that Progress He hopes He shall finde His Queen in His Arms, and so return to meet you here in the beginning of Winter.

Mr. Speaker, all your Petitions are very grateful to the King; you and your Servants in your Persons, and Estates, are free from all Arrests or Molestations; your liberty and freedom of Speech is very willingly granted to you; when you would repair to His Majesty, you shall be welcome; and His Majesty will be so far from jealousy of your Actions, that He believes it is impossible for Him to be jealous of you, or you of Him; and if you please, He will make it penal to nourish that unwholsome Weed in any part of the Kingdom.

FINIS.

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L O N D O N :

Printed by *Iohn Bill*, and *Christopher Barker*,
Printers to the KING's most
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in *Black-Fryers*.



